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My Dear Miss Mason,

although your last letter reached me in due course, two months & more is elapsed since I only now taken up my pen to write to you in reply. — you must think that I have forgotten you & have given me up as a faithless correspondent & friend. Pray do not think any thing of the kind. Since I returned home affliction upon affliction has come upon me like so many rolling waves & in the storm I have lost one of my dear children — a daughter my second & girl of 23 not long since a perfectly strong healthy & sure of long life

My own health has also been very
 indifferent & my poor wife still ill
 But the Lord has declared that in six
 months he will be with us & we shall
 not leave us. Bless His name, my hope
 is in him. And believe me dear girl
 I consider your case a far more trying
 one than mine. An orphan, alone & a
 stranger & a woman too. Ah I would
 rather close the eyes & adjust in the
 coffin the last of my dear daughter
 than leave them orphans to creep for mercy
 & then more comfortable home without
 any in a cold world to be their pro-
 tector & guide. My heart is always very
 tender towards the orphan. Within some
 years I have buried three & have now
 only two left. But the Lord gave &
 the Lord has taken away & blessed be
 his holy name. They all died in the faith
 of the Gospel.

I do hope dear child that your mind
 is more at ease & comfortable than it was when
 you wrote in August. I do understand how
 'very' worried you may feel your heart & yet
 be a Christian. It is 'Christ in us' the hope of
 glory not a pure & sinless heart in us
 the hope of glory. Paul called himself a
 'wretched man' are you lower than that
 if you can say 'with the mind I serve'
 then you are safe. Do you not feel some
 witness in yourself. Like Peter cannot you
 sometimes say Lord I know you & what
 a blessed state is that to feel our utter
 unworthiness & with boldness & entire heart
 to cast ourselves upon the worthy
 Lamb - and feel that he is all to us
 our righteousness, our sanctification - we are
 complete in him. Without any hesitation
 I say to you if you are still hesitating - for
 me yes surely so & for a conscientiously
 oh yes & cheerfully, & thankfully. But
 do not without a Doctor's advice at-
 tempt trying for a certificate. Let your

lawful desire to occupy the ground of a
certificated teacher be put aside. God
speaks to you in disease these words.
Do not exalt the brain & general nervous
system or you are a dead or useless
woman. It is not better to work without
a certificate than to possess a certificate
the unwilling for work afterwards. I
sympathize with you in your desire but
let it improve yourself steadily but
gently. Perhaps at Xmas 1862 you
may be strong enough. I hope your pride
is not an unworthy pride.

If I were near you when you talk about
sinning against the work of the children I fear
I should scold or do something worse. You can
only use the means of spiritual growth not the
goal itself. I do not believe a word about
your want of wisdom & love. And as to your
moods I am prepared to hear that you
go through all the moral moods & stages
too & yet you should when you get into
the indecision assist without reason.
all you know & feel of the best love
& love to God glorious persing. But my
dear your friend if I talk thus you may

Friday Afternoon

My Dear Miss Mason

I was very sorry indeed
 this morning when I found that giving
 a lesson was too much for you. When
 I saw you ^{that} I was exceedingly pleased
 thinking you were better & strong &
 not nervous in giving a criticism.
 Indeed I felt as if you had lost all
 fear of me as a critic & regarded
 me as a friendly genius sitting
 down to do you a good turn. But
 oh you naughty girl - it was your
 own spirit & resolution that wo-
 nd for way ^{even} before disease -
 that would discharge a duty
 at whatever it might cost you

you must not attempt another.
I shall not let Mr. Bassel ap-
proach you any more. You can
teach well & need only only to
study our principle. I liked
your lesson much. I trust the
good Lord will spare your
life & permit you to work in
his vineyard a while here.
If however his servants will to
depart & escape the world & its
snares will be more for your rest
& eternal happiness. Do not
you love the Saviour dear Jesus
more & if so to behold his
face will be glorious. I hope
your affection does not lead you

to retire. You may be young
in years but rich in experience.
I suffer perfect more & faster than
to do. Thus you are brought to be
more like the Saviour. May the
Lord preserve you with you in
all the riches of ^{his} power & love
& give you when the summons
comes an abundant entrance
into his everlasting Kingdom
which is a Kingdom of glory & of
suffering.